

Patent Application No. 09/468,581
Attorney Docket No. 81870.0007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

Claims 3, 13, and 17 are amended. Claims 3-10, 13-15, and 17-24 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

This invention relates to a multi-monitor, auxiliary monitor, and monitor supporter. (Applicant's specification, at p. 1, lines 8-9).

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments comply with requirements of form and thus may be admitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(a). Alternatively, if these amendments are deemed to touch the merits, admission is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b). In this connection, these amendments were not earlier presented because they are in response to the matters pointed out for the first time in the Final Office Action.

Lastly, admission is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(a) as presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 3, 9-10, 13, 15, and 17-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Milner (U.S. Patent No. 6,339,410) in view of Gouko (U.S. Patent No. 6,222,507). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 3, as amended, is as follows:

A multi-monitor, comprising:
a first display device having a display screen;
a second display device having a display screen smaller than the first display device; and
a supporting mechanism which is mountable on an outside portion of the first display device, and supports the second display device rotatably about a first axis and a second axis intersecting the first axis,

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wherein the first axis is parallel with a horizontal direction of the display screen of the first display device, and the second axis is parallel with a vertical direction of the display screen of the first display device, and

wherein the supporting mechanism includes:

a first support member which supports the second display device rotatably about the first and second axes; and

a second support member which is mounted on at least one of a side portion and a top portion of the first display device, and supports the first support member slidably in parallel with either one of the vertical and horizontal directions of the display screen of the first display device,

wherein the first support member includes a single arm, and the arm is directly connected to both the second display device and the second support member.

Applicant respectfully submits that Milner and Gouko cannot render claim 3 obvious, because Milner and Gouko fail to teach or suggest a support member that includes a single arm that is directly connected to both the second display device and the second support member. Claim 3 was amended to clarify that is a single arm that is directly connected to both the second display device and the second support member.

In Milner, there are two arms 34 and 68, joined at an elbow 35 that are used to connect the patient monitor 30 to the mounting attachment 72. (Milner, Figure 3, and column 9, lines 32-38). Thus, the present invention has the advantage that only a single arm is needed to support the second display device rotatably about the first and second axes. Gouko cannot remedy the defect of Gouko and is not relied upon by the Office for such. Instead, the Office cites Gouko for teaching a "multi-monitor (a personal computer having a plurality of display panels (see col. 1, lines 5-6), comprising: a first display device 2 (Gouko says the main panel 2 as a primary

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display panel) having a display screen 2a (a display surface 2a); a second display device 3 (Gouko says the sub panel 3 as a secondary display panel) having a display screen smaller than the first display device 2 (see figure 1; col. 3, lines 23-28, and line 37)." In addition, the Office relies upon Gouko for teaching "an image signal output device (the personal computer) which outputs image signals to be displayed on the display screens of the first and the second display devices (Gouko says the personal computer provides a plurality of images to be displayed in a plurality of display panels."

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Milner and Gouko could not have made amended claim 3 obvious, because the combination of references fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation.

Claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 3, and as such include all the limitations of amended claim 3, and therefore, cannot be made obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 3. Withdrawal of these rejections is thus respectfully requested.

Claim 13, as amended, requires a single arm that is directly connected to both the main body and the second support member. Claim 17, as amended, requires a single arm that is directly connected to both the auxiliary display device and the second support member. Therefore, both of these claims are patentable over Milner and Gouko for the same reasons as discussed above. Withdrawal of these rejections is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 15 and 18-24 depend from independent claims 13 and 17, respectively, and therefore, contain all the limitations of independent claims 13 and 17. As such, claims 15 and 18-24 are patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 13 and 17. Withdrawal of these rejections is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 6, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Milner in view of Gouko as applied to claims 3 and 13 above, and further in view of Crossland et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,720,781). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

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Claims 4 and 6 depend from amended claim 3 and as such include all the limitations of claim 3. Claim 14 depends from amended claim 13, and as such includes all the limitations of claim 13. Therefore, these claims cannot be rendered obvious over Milner and Gouko, for at least the same reasons as discussed above. Crossland cannot remedy the defect of Milner and Gouko and is not relied upon by the Office for such. Instead, the Office cites Crossland for teaching "a multi-monitor device having a first display 2 and a second display device 3 (Crossland calls an office terminal having a first and a second flat panel display modules 2 and 3. See FIG.1), and the first and the second display devices are driven by an operating system, for example MIRTOS (Crossland says an operating system, e.g. MIRTOS, is used to support module software driven the display modules) (see Col. 4, lines 6-23)." In addition, the Office relies upon Crossland for teaching "an image signal output device 13 (a controller or a central processor 13), which outputs image signals to be displayed on the display screens of the first and the second display devices 12, 16 using display interface 11 and 15 (see FIG. 6; col 3, lines 12-16, lines 58-63)."

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references either alone or in combination could not have made claims 4, 6, and 14 obvious, because the combination of references fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Milner and Gouko in view of Crossland as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Register (U.S. Patent No. 5,590,021). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 5 depends from amended claim 3 and as such includes all the limitations of claim 3, and therefore, cannot be rendered obvious over Milner, Gouko, and Crossland for the same reasons as discussed above. Register cannot remedy the defect of Milner, Gouko, and Crossland and is not relied upon by the Office for such. Instead, the Office cites Register for teaching "a multi-monitor

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system (See FIG.1) including a first image signal output device 12 (a computer 12) which outputs an image signal representing an image to be displayed on the display screen 29 of the first display device 16 (the display monitor 16), and a second image signal output device 24 (a display controller 24) which outputs an image signal representing an image to be displayed on the screen 28 of the second display device 22 (a liquid crystal display module 22) (See FIGS. 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 28-64)."

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references either alone or in combination could not have made claim 5 obvious, because the combination of references fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Milner, Gouko and Crossland as applied to claims 1, 4, and 6 above, and further in view of Fowler (U.S. Patent No. 6,302,612). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claims 7 and 8 depend from amended claim 3 and as such include all the limitations of claim 3, and therefore cannot be rendered obvious over Milner, Gouko, and Crossland for the same reasons as discussed above. Fowler cannot remedy the defect of Milner, Gouko, and Crossland and is not relied upon by the Office for such. Instead, the Office cites Fowler for teaching "a multi-monitor including a first display device 110 (the primary LCD 110) hinged mounted to base computer 100 (a base 100) and a second display device 111 (a hidden secondary LCD 111) (See FIGS. 9 and 10; and col. 4, lines 4-6). Fowler further teaches the use of a first wiring 109 (a ribbon wire 109) which connects the image signal output device 105 (a base 105) with a first display device 101 (a primary LCD 101) (See FIG. 8; col. 3, line 2, and lines 63-64), and a second wiring 127 (a connecting wire 127) which connects the image signal output device 100 with the second display device 111 (See FIG. 11; col. 4, lines 17-27)." In addition, the Office relies upon Fowler for teaching "the use of a first wiring 109 (a connecting ribbon wire 109) which connects the image signal output device 105 (the base member or the base computer 105) with the first display

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device 101 (the primary LCD 101), and a second wiring 116 (a connecting ribbon 116) which connects the first display device 101 with the second display device 120 (the side or secondary LCD 120)."

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references either alone or in combination could not have made claims 7 and 8 obvious, because the combination of references fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6810 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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By: Lawrence J. McClure
Lawrence J. McClure
Registration No. 44,228
Attorney for Applicant(s)

500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900
Los Angeles, California 90071
Phone: 213-337-6700
Fax: 213-337-6701